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TELEPHONE NO. 6.

A FRIGHTENED PRESIDENT.

That letter Secretary Norton recently wrote to an Iowa republican promising a division of the Federal patronage between regulars and insurgents without regard to past and present alignments clearly indicates the fear of President Taft of an approaching disaster at the coming November election. During the last session of congress, while administration measures were pending, a decree, pronouncing judgment upon insurgent representatives, was handed down, but since the recent storm of disapproval of stand-patism has swept over the country the smiling occupant of the White House has descended from his high perch.

It is not to the credit of Mr. Taft to stoop to petty politics in the expectancy of regaining lost prestige in the councils of his party. Only a few months ago he let it be understood that republicans who dared to assert their independence would not only be deprived of their patronage, but defeated at the polls for giving front to the administration. But the little insurgent band refused to be intimidated and has persistently and consistently made war on the policies advocated by the President and his clique of stand-patters. And seeing the tide turning so rapidly towards insurgency suddenly reverses his order with reference to patronage matters and declares that the regulars and insurgents look alike to him. Whipped to a stand-still the old ring feels constrained to change its tactics and Mr. Taft forthwith instructs Secretary Norton to send out a flag of truce which, in fact, as follows:

"While Republican legislation pending in congress was opposed by certain Republicans the president felt it to be his duty to the party and to the country to withhold federal patronage from certain senators and congressmen who seemed to be in opposition to the administration's efforts to carry out the promises of the party platform.

"The president feels that the value of federal patronage has been greatly exaggerated and that the refusal to grant it has probably been more useful to the men affected than the appointments would have been. In the preliminary skirmishes in certain states like Wisconsin and Iowa and elsewhere he was willing, in the interest of what the leaders believed would lead to party success, to make certain discriminations; but the president has concluded that it is his duty now to treat all republican congressmen and senators alike without any distinction. He will now follow the usual rule in republican congressional districts and states and follow the recommendations made by republican congressmen and senators of whatever shade of political opinion, only requiring that the men recommended shall be good men, the most competent and the best fitted for the particular office."

Commenting upon the President's attitude and the Norton letter the New York World correctly observes:

"Here is an open avowal of the indecencies that scandalized the Buchanan administration and of the sordid favoritism that brought Grant's second term to a humiliating close. Yet bad as was Buchanan's Danite war upon the Douglas men and demoralizing as was the attitude of Grant's parasites toward the Liberals, the country was at least spared on both occasions presidential penance like the above.

"Written for Mr. Taft and presumably approved by him, this

shocking letter nevertheless is signed by another. In such cases there is always the possibility of misunderstanding. If nothing worse, and for a day or two there will be ground for hope that there may be a disavowal. It has been found necessary during this administration to sacrifice one secretary to the president. Perhaps the fate of another has been sealed."

A rather sorry spectacle to observe the official head of a great government stooping to the level of the ward politician and approving a patronage-bribery scheme. But such is the condition which now presents itself made in a desperate attempt of frightened chief executive in the hope of saving his scalp.

OVERTHROW OF CANNONISM

One of the important issues involved in the present campaign is whether Speaker Cannon shall continue to dominate the house of representatives and, thereby, dictate every piece of legislation that "runs the gauntlet" or be forced into the ranks and a fair man placed in the Speaker's chair. Republicans in many northern and western states are demanding of their nominees for congress to state whether they will, if elected, support Cannon for speaker, and scores of stand-patters have been induced to say they will not follow his standard next year. But it is not safe to "bank on" utterances of Republican office seekers every time and the only sure way to displace "Uncle Joe" will be the election of democrats sufficient in number to elect Champ Clarke speaker. Every "regular" republican is a Cannon adherent and may be relied upon to stand right "up to the rack." Stand-patters are for Cannon everywhere and it is just like the News and Observer says:

"The Maine Republicans did not 'repudiate Uncle Joe and the time honored principles of Republicanism.' On the other hand they renominated the congressmen who had sneezed when Cannon took snuff, they stood pat for the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill and endorsed Taft's statement that it was 'the best tariff law ever enacted,' and cursed 'insurgency' and La Follettism as viciously as they ever fought Bryanism. The Maine fight was an overthrow of Cannon and Cannonism, and yet North Carolina Republicans stand for what even Maine voters have repudiated and what not even Republicans in the west will stand for. Morehead, Cowles and Grant all three were Cannon's puppets and they are advocating Cannonism in their districts. The Republicans of those districts, like their fellows in Maine, will help the Democrats to administer a severe rebuke to the attempt to continue Favoritism in government.

"Cannonism is doomed and with it North Carolina Republicanism." There are a number of republicans in the Tenth district who are opposed to Cannon and his methods, some right here in Hendersonville. They plainly see in the Maine election that their party is going to pieces under the leadership of Cannon, Aldrich and Taft, but appear lacking in courage and independence of thought and action to demand a fair deal at the hands of John G. Grant who was dominated so completely by the speaker during the last session of congress that he actually voted for him to be provided with a costly automobile at the expense of the people. However, there is right now a sufficient number of insurgent republicans in this district who are going to vote their sentiments, even if they are not disposed to make open confessions of faith, to replace Mr. Grant with a man who will not take orders from aristocratic bosses.

BUTLER IS IT.

If there be any Republicans who are not aware their party leadership being vested in Marion Butler the following from the Greensboro News (republican) a few days prior to the republican state convention may enlighten them:

"Shall we elect Mr. Morehead simply because he is selected, groomed and chaperoned by Mr. Butler and because Mr. Butler has assumed charge and is con-

ducting, controlling and dominating his campaign? If there lingered in the public mind any doubt as to the truth of Mr. Butler's absolute domination of the Morehead campaign for the chairmanship it was removed by the three columns of hot air in the Charlotte Observer of yesterday fresh from the Butler press bureau at Morehead City."

Republicans of Henderson county, behold your new leader! Do you like him? Do you endorse his treachery to former Senator Pritchard, his slanders of Judge Ewart, and his disgraceful conduct in connection with the selection of repudiated reconstruction bonds? He is your leader just the same.

The news that Dr. Crippen promised to marry his typist, Miss Leneve, is not at all surprising. Developments indicate that he was capable of promising most anything. But then the 'under world' contains many subjects of his stripe and Ethel Clara Leneve is not the first victim of misplaced confidence, who has been turned out into the cold world alone. There is Nan Patterson and Evelyn Nesbit Thaw and hundreds of other unfortunates to keep her company.

WHY BECOME A REPUBLICAN

The Chatham Record propounds the following very pertinent questions to democrats who may be disgruntled on account of visionary grievances or for other causes:

"Why should any Democrat in North Carolina now desert his old party and join the Republicans?"

"Is it because the Democratic party disfranchised the ignorant negro voters?"

"Is it because the Republican party opposed and bitterly fought the adoption of the suffrage amendment?"

"Is it because the Democratic party has built so many school-houses and extended the length of our school terms?"

"Is it because the Democratic party has increased the appropriation for Confederate pensioners from \$100,000 (the amount appropriate under Pension rule) to half a million?"

"Is it because the Democratic party has largely increased the appropriations for the support of our unfortunate insane."

"Is it because the Democratic party has largely increased the appropriations for the deaf and dumb and blind children."

"Is it because the Democratic party has made the penitentiary not only self-supporting but a source of revenue, instead of being an expense of over a hundred thousand dollars a year, as it was under Republican rule?"

"If not why (we repeat) should any Democrat in North Carolina now desert his old party and join the Radicals?"

Mighty few democrats are "joining the radicals" in this neck of the woods now a days. There is no reason for doing so here in North Carolina except the lack of "common horse sense." No such action is ever prompted by motives of a commendable character. Once in awhile some fellow gets mad because he fails to get an office, or does not succeed in carrying a pet scheme into effect and either goes over to the republicans bodily, or does his party greater harm by remaining in the ranks only to abuse former associates and decry, in private, matters of public policies he feigns to advocate in the open. However, this class of "undesirable citizens" is growing visibly less all the time and the sooner the democratic party is entirely rid of this incubus the better it will be and the greater the prospects for success. The drone and the kicker are a menace.

It is usually the office-seeker who leaves the democratic party and the fellow who is a democrat for revenue only does not amount to much anyway. It is the man who fights for principle that makes himself felt. And the latter class of democrats are standing pat this year. The democratic party is good enough for them. Butlerism is more than they can stand.

AS TO PROHIBITION.

Its Object, The Preventing To Greatest Possible Extent, The Use of Intoxicating Drinks.
(R. C. D. in Christian Home.)

Local option means the right of any unit of government, even the smallest, to adopt or to reject, at its own will, any measure that primarily concerns that community apart from other similar units or communities. Local option therefore, when applied to a specific subject or measure, simply allows any of the townships of a county or any county of the state to adopt or reject the measure or law in question. Whether it be local or option of township, county or state depends on what unit of government is legitimately deciding the question under consideration.

The privilege of local option can be exercised by a community only after the supreme government has delegated this privilege to the sub-governments or smaller units, whether they be states, counties, or townships. While we remember that local option can justly be applied only to questions that concern primarily the local community and not the general or larger community, let us consider the state as the supreme government that grants the local option privilege. The state therefore, can only delegate the privilege to adopt exclusively local or county law on questions that do not involve the unified interest of the whole state. No county has a right to determine alone who shall or shall not be law, except along lines that are peculiarly local in their nature and do not vitally concern the people of the whole state. Questions and laws of common interest to all the local communities become state questions to be determined by the state and not by the smaller community. Such laws and questions do not in their nature belong to the local option field.

Where does prohibition belong? Is it a matter of mere local interest or a subject of deep concern to the state as a whole? The prohibition question is one properly handling or preventing the manufacture and sale of intoxicants, especially of intoxicating drinks. Neither the county nor the state is particularly interested in the mere manufacture or sale of intoxicants. But the interest and the serious consequence is in the consumption of these drinks. If nobody would drink them the whole question would be dead.

Prohibition, therefore, becomes a problem of preventing to the greatest extent possible, the drinking of intoxicating drinks. This in turn is a question of order, health, and morals. Neither the local community nor the state cares what nor how much its citizens drink so long as public order, health and morals are not affected. That these great and vital interests are all very seriously affected by the use of intoxicants is proved by observation, statistics, and science. Furthermore its use is general wherever permitted to be made and sold. It is not confined to any community or group of communities.

Not only does the use of strong drink involve the health and morals of the state, but the counties cannot control it. If the problem existed in manufacture or even in sale, there would be a large possibility for the successful application of local option. But as the real problem is in the drinking, the county cannot successfully handle it. Half a dozen counties might pass prohibition laws while only one in their midst refuses on account of liquor influence. That county practically annuls, in a large measure, the legislation of the six adjoining counties. When only a few miles travel is the only obstacle and that merely a county line, the laws necessary do not accomplish the whole purpose intended.

Therefore, as a problem involving public order, health and morals, to say nothing of the economic phase, and as a problem of practical legislation the prohibition question becomes at least a state wide question and not to be handled by local option. For the very reason that it is a state question, it really becomes a national problem which all the more removes it from the questions belonging to local rule. Local option is only a substitute until thing better may be secured. As North Carolina has gone beyond that, let every patriotic citizen avoid political party attempts to backslide into local option on prohibition.

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